

REMARKS

Pending Claims:

In this application, claims 1-5 are currently pending. Claims 1-5 are amended by this Response. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested. A sheet showing all the claims and amendments thereto is included as a part of this response.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Examiners action, the inventors and inventions present in the present application are jointly assigned to the present assignee at all times.

In his paragraph 3 the Examiner has rejected claims 1,2 and 5 as being unpatentable over Crowley '432 in view of Taccardi '924. Each of the claims are amended to requires that the locator electrode positioned near the distal tip of the catheter function to provide an image depicting the location of the catheter in the heart. Taccardi shows an "in contact" mapping system with no provision for building a 3-D image of the heart only a 2-D map of electrical activation. Crowley '432 shows an ultrasonic system for illuminating and showing the position of the ablation electrodes within the field of view of the ultrasonic transducer. However, there is no recognition that a single locator electrode can be used for any imaging or location function.

Applicant submits that the obvious combination of the two references is the addition of a multiple electrode contact mapping system to the ultrasound system of Crowley. In applicants view the inclusion and use of a locator electrode on an ablation catheter is not an obvious combination of these references.

In his paragraph 4 the Examiner has rejected claim 3 as being unpatentable over Motamedi '005 in view of Taccardi '924. It is clear that Motamedi teaches laser ablation. What is lacking is any recognition that a single electrode can be used to supply location and imaging information to the physician on a laser ablation catheter or that a combination of that type is useful. The Taccardi reference does not supply a missing teaching for this combination.

In his paragraph 5 the Examiner has rejected claims 1,2 and 5 as being unpatentable over Walinsky '649 in view of Taccardi '924. Walinsky shows a device to ablate the His bundle. This is a particular location that can be found directly and does not require or exploit any imaging technology. Although the RF ablation is disclosed by

Walinsky in his application is narrowly focused on a particular area of the heart and there is no teaching or motivation to add an electrode or use a separate electrode for image or location data.

In his paragraph 6 the Examiner has rejected claims 1,2 and 5 as being unpatentable over Crowley '432. In Crowley '432 there is an ultrasonic imaging system for visualizing the ablation electrodes within that field. However there is no recognition that a single locator electrode can be used for this function. Applicant submits that the substitution of one imaging system for another requires at the minimum two well know alternative system along with a motivation to substitute. The localized imaging of the area next

In his paragraph 7 the Examiner has rejected claims 1,2 and 5 as being unpatentable over Motamedi '005. In Motamedi the overall notion that location or image information is useful to the physician is not present in the teaching of the patent.

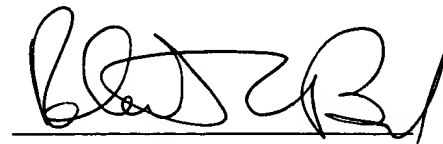
In his paragraph 8 the Examiner has rejected claims 1,2 and 5 as being unpatentable over Walinsky '649. Walinsky shows a His bundle ablation device to ablate those specific tissues. This is a particular location that can be found directly and does not require or exploit any imaging technology. Although the RF ablation is disclosed by Walinsky in his application is narrowly focused on a particular area of the heart and there is no teaching or motivation to add an electrode or use a separate electrode for image or location data .

CONCLUSION

All of the claims remaining in this application should now be seen to be in condition for allowance. The prompt issuance of a notice to that effect is solicited.

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